



> **MACONDO**
157 East Houston Street
Tel: 212-473-9900
Designer:
crème design collective

FANNY ALLIE

Named after the fictional Colombian village in Gabriel García Márquez's 1967 novel *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Macondo, the latest restaurant from chef Máximo Tejada and emerging restaurateur Héctor Sanz, fittingly serves up Latin American street food within a bustling, market-like space. Designed by Jun Aizaki of crème design collective, the interior is fitted out to evoke a typical Latin streetscape—albeit with a decidedly refined twist. Using unfussy materials—particle board, exposed brick walls, acid-stained concrete, and reclaimed wood—designers divided the room into three distinct sections. Up front, a classic storefront window reveals suspended net baskets filled with fresh coconuts and pineapples, as well as an informal kitchen counter where customers can banter with the chef. Keeping with the market motif, wall-mounted shelves are arrayed with condiments and other products, while a blackboard wraps around the bar, boldly stenciled with drink and menu options. The restaurant's middle section features retro-style chairs with adjustable armrests and stripped-down bar stools with gel seats perched atop bare metal posts. In back, a dining area with modular, particle board booth seating is enclosed by an ivy-covered trellis, conjuring a cozy Latin courtyard. **DANIELLE RAGO**

VIÑOLY DESIGNING NEW CAMPUS ON SAADIYAT ISLAND

NYU in UAE, AOK?

Village residents, take a breath. New York University is expanding—in Abu Dhabi. Rafael Viñoly Architect has been selected to create a masterplan and design guidelines for a new liberal arts campus and research institute, to be called NYU Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), which will eventually house 4,000 students, both undergraduate and graduate. The plan is due to be completed by spring, according to Hilary Ballon, associate vice chancellor for regional campus development. Ballon declined to give a budget figure for the project, indicating that primary funding is coming from the emirate, not the university. As of press time, Viñoly's office was awaiting permission from the emirate to speak to *AN*.

NYU and an Abu Dhabi-based developer, working at the behest of the emirate's development authority, selected Viñoly through an RFP. Ballon declined to name the other teams, but indicated there were "approximately 12" other contenders. Viñoly prevailed over the other teams by expressing a plan to create a climate-sensitive design, including indoor/outdoor space for casual gatherings, a challenge in the region's harsh climate. "We are hoping to do something new. Much of the development in Abu Dhabi is not at all pedestrian-friendly,"

Ballon said. "Saadiyat Island is becoming a center for progressive planning. The university can be a model."

In the meantime, the university is transforming one of the historic Washington Square townhouses into a "portal" to the new campus, according to Ballon. Designed by Murphy, Burhnam, & Buttrick Architects, the new facility will include two lecture halls for video seminars, and office and meeting space. The project includes renovating the historic house and a large addition to the rear. "NYU Abu Dhabi is not a free-standing institution," she said. "It is connected in every way to Washington Square."

NYUAD is not without controversy. Some students and faculty have questioned how NYU's commitment to academic freedom and its non-discrimination policies will square in a country with limited civil liberties. "NYU responds very strongly to that criticism," Ballon said. "NYU will not discriminate against anyone who meets our academic criteria. It was a walk-away issue: We would have left the table if we felt our academic freedom was being compromised." On September 29, NYU announced that Alfred H. Bloom, the president of Swarthmore College, would lead NYUAD. He told *The New York Times*, "I am convinced that we will be able to provide a vibrant environment which guards academic freedom." He added: "I see the challenges, but I see even more importantly the prospect of truly advancing the role of education in promoting cooperative pursuit of knowledge, global understanding and, ultimately, a world that recognizes and builds on human common ground."

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